

Mr. Tony Marro
Newsday
Long Island, N.Y. 11747

6/2/85

Dear Tony,

A year or two ago a mystery plane crashed into a volcano near the capital of El Salvador. The stories about it were inherently incredible but we, may I say dutifully, reported. There were no questions when the cover story was altered to make it a different volcano, no questions when it was described as a Nicaraguan plane allegedly carrying arms to the Salvadoran rebels, none about how it got where it was on such a mission, and an unexplained mystery when the Salvadoran military kept all reporters a mile or so away from the crash site.

To me, from these and other fact, it was obvious that this was a CIA plane equipped to spot Salvadoran rebels at night, violation of U.S. law.

Then it came out that this plane had been from Summit aviation company, at Greenwood, Delaware. And then that federal tax money had been used to improve the airport at which the company was located. Having worked on the Wilmington News and been a farmer, I recognized the smell of overripe bullshit. The runways of that country airport were not enlarged for private ~~executive~~ executive planes so that those who owned and flew them could get to downtown Philadelphia faster. That was the story. Many existing airports already served that purpose. Even the commercial Wilmington airport, which also is on the major highway to Philadelphia and a lot closer - and underused.

I've just seen the attached piece in the Progressive by a New Yorker who worked for Summit and gives a little description of what happened to planes there.

Aside from policy and political if not also military matters, there appears to be the clearly illegal use of tax money and direct violation of an Act of Congress. I do not know, of course, whether this writer can add more or fill in gaps.

At the time I phoned the Post reporter who wrote what it carried. There was interest in what was told to me but nothing was published.

Best wishes,

Harold

Harold Weisberg